

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1685

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SUBJ: USG REPRESENTATION LIST 16 - STATUS AFTER TEN MONTHS

REF: MOSCOW 18515

1. SUMMARY: MINIMAL NUMERICAL PROGRESS IN RESOLUTION OF USG REPRESENTATION LIST 16 CASES WAS MADE IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY, DURING WHICH ONLY EIGHT LISTED FAMILIES RECEIVED SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION. TEN MONTHS AFTER INITIAL PRESENTATION OF THE LIST, HOWEVER, APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRD OF THE PERSONS LISTED, COMPRISING 31 PERCENT OF THE FAMILY UNITS, HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO DEPART THE SOVIET UNION. WHILE THESE FIGURES ARE ONLY marginally ahead of comparable totals for RL 15, EMBASSY IS SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED BY FACT THAT SIX OF RECENTLY RESOLVED CASES ARE FAMILIES ON WHOSE BEHALF EMBASSY EFFORTS HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY CONCENTRATED. FINALLY, OVERALL RATE OF EXIT PERMISSION GRANTS TO US-BOUND EMIGRANTS CONTINUED TO RISE STEADILY, AND EMBASSY PROCESSED RECORD NUMBER OF 120 SOVIET EMIGRANTS TO US DURING JANUARY. END SUMMARY.

2. ONLY EIGHT FAMILIES LISTED ON USG REPRESENTATION LIST 16 REPORTED RECEIPT OF EXIT PERMISSION DURING DECEMBER AND JANUARY. ADDITION OF THESE TO PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TOTALS SHOW
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86 OF 274 FAMILIES ON LIST, OR 31 PERCENT, HAVE RECEIVED

EXIT PERMISSION IN TEN MONTHS SINCE LIST WAS PRESENTED. RESOLUTION RATE FOR INDIVIDUALS (258 OF 790, 33 PERCENT) IS SLIGHTLY HIGHER OWING TO COMPARATIVELY MORE FAVORABLE SUCCESS RATION OF LARGE ARMENIAN FAMILIES ON LIST. AS NOTED PARA 3 REFTEL, MINIMALLY BETTER RATE OF RESOLUTION FOR RL 16 COMPARED WITH RL 15 (TEN-MONTH RATE WAS 66 OF 221 CASES, OR 29 PERCENT) IS WHOLLY DUE TO LARGE NUMBER OF CASES (40) RESOLVED DURING FIRST TWO MONTHS AFTER PRESENTATION OF LIST. SINCE AUGUST, RATE HAS HELD STEADY AT DISAPPOINTING LEVEL OF ABOUT FOUR CASES RESOLVED PER MONTH.

3. MOST RESPONSIVE REPUBLIC, AS BEFORE, HAS BEEN ARMENIA, IN WHICH 21 OF 32 FAMILIES LISTED HAVE RECEIVED EXIT PERMISSION TO DATE, THREE DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS (MELCONIAN-MOSCOW 19009, NALBANDIAN-MOSCOW 18890, AND MAGAKIAN). BY CONTRAST, UKRAINE, WHERE BULK OF CASES CONCENTRATED, DIPPED TO ALL-TIME TWO-MONTH LOW OF ONLY TWO RESOLUTIONS, AND ONLY 45 OF 142 CASES IN THAT REPUBLIC (32 PERCENT) HAVE BEEN RSOLVED. SIMILARY, ONLY ONE PARTIALLY RESOLVED CASE (TSADOURIAN-MOSCOW 19115) IN LATVIA, AND NO RESPONSE AT ALL IN LITHUANIA EXTENDS BLEAK RECORD OF US-INTEREST CASES IN THESE TWO REPUBLICS.

4. ONE HOPEFUL SING IN EXIT-VISA REPRESENTATION DURING PAST TWO MONTHS CONSISTS OF FACT THAT WHILE ONLY EIGHT CASES WERE RESOLVED, SIX OF THESE ARE FAMILIES WHOSE CASES EMBASSY HAS PARTICULARLY STRESSED IN REPRESENTATIONS TO SOVIETS. AS NOTED IN MOSCOW A-322 OF 8/6/74, THREE CONCENTRATED LISTS WERE PRESENTED DURING 1974, TWO OF WHICH WERE GIVEN PERSONALLY BY AMBASSADOR TO KUZNETSOV. THESE LISTS OVERLAPPED CONSIDERABLY, AND MOST OF THE 37 FAMILIES APPEARED AT LEAST TWICE ON THE THREE LISTS. TO DATE, 18 OF THESE FAMILIES (49 PERCENT), INCLUDING 5 OF 12 AMERICAN CITIZEN REPATRIATION CASES, HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVED. EMBASSY HAS ALSO NOTED RELATIVELY HIGHER RESOLUTION RATE FOR OTHER FAMILIES ON WHOSE BEHALF INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE (SEE FOR EXAMPLE MOSCOW 18613 - SHRAER, MOSCOW 286 AND MOSCOW DS-4 OF 12/16/74 - MAGAKIAN/NALBANDIAN, AND MOSCOW DS-4 OF 1/8/74-MARTON WEISZ). UNQUESTIONABLY LARGE PART IN SUCCESS OF THESE FAMILIES WAS PLAYED BY THEIR OWN ACTIVE AND PERSISTENT PURSUIT OF GOAL. HOWEVER, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATION HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN USEFUL, AND MAY POSSIBLY HAVE AFFECTED SOVIET DECISION-MAKING IN SOME INSTANCES.

5. FINALLY, STEADY INCREASE IN OVERALL RATE OF EXIT PERMISSION RECEIPT OVER LAST FOUR YEARS CONTINUED IN JANUARY, DURING WHICH 120 SOVIET EMIGRANTS WERE PROCESSED BY EMBASSY FOR ENTRY IN US. THIS IS HIGHEST MONTHLY TOTAL SINCE EMIGRATION RATE BEGAN TO INCREASE IN 1971, REPRESENTING ALMOST FOUR TIMES JANUARY, 1973,

FIGURE (34) AND A 27 PERCENT INCREASE OVER JANUARY, 1974 (88).
EMBASSY CURRENTLY RECEIVING NOTIFICATIONS FROM APPROX SEVEN
PERSONS DAILY INDICATING EXIT PERMISSION RECEIVED OR
PROMISED. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AT PRESENT, THEREFORE, INDICATING
SOVIETS INTEND TO CUT EMIGRATION TO US DRASTICALLY IN WAKE OF
DECISION NOT TO IMPLEMENT TRADE AGREEMENT.
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